

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 06801 191152Z

55

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SY-10 AID-20 DRC-01 L-03 /083 W

----- 003769

R 191045Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5143

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6801

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: PERSONAL SECURITY OF AMERICAN STAFF

1. DURING PAST TWO WEEKS, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL WORRISOME INCIDENTS IN WHICH STAFF OR DEPENDENTS OF USMISSION AND OF OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN KABUL HAVE BEEN STOPPED IN THEIR AUTOMOBILES BY SOLDIERS ON WHAT ARE APPARENTLY OPEN STREETS OF THE CITY USUALLY AFTER DARK. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CURFEW, AND THERE ARE ONLY TWO OR THREE REGULARLY BLOCKADED STREETS IN THE CITY, THE EQUIVALENT OF MARTIAL LAW IS IN EFFECT, AS CONFIRMED BY DEPFONMIN WAHID ABDULLAH. SOLDIERS MAKE RANDOM CHECKS OF THE STREETS AFTER DARK AND STOP CARS AT UNPREDICTABLE POINTS TO CHECK ON OCCUPANTS. PROBLEM THIS PRESENTS IS PRIMARILY THE WAY IN WHICH PERSONS ARE CHALLENGED: INVARIABLY BY HAVING A LOADED AUTOMATIC WEAPON THRUST INTO A CAR WINDOW OR AIMED AT A WINDSHIELD AS THE CHALLENGE IS MADE, A PRACTICE WHICH UNDERSTANDABLY CREATES CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS AMONG THE FOREIGNERS IN VIEW OF THE QUESTIONABLE LEVEL OF TRAINING OF THE AFGHAN MILITARY AND THEIR LACK OF EXPERIENCE WITH THIS KIND OF DUTY.

2. A SPECIAL PROBLEM IS CREATED BY THE FACT THAT THE STREET IN FRONT OF PRESIDENT DAUD'S HOUSE IS NOW BEING BLOCKED AT BOTH ENDS EACH EVENING AT UNPREDICTABLE HOURS. THE USIS CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER LIVES TWO DOORS FROM PRESIDENT DAUD. (THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR LIVES ADJACENT TO THE PRESIDENT'S HOME ON THE OTHER SIDE.) WHEN THE STREET IS BLOCKED, ACCESS IS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO OR FROM THESE RESIDENCES. ANOTHER ESPECIALLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 06801 191152Z

SENSITIVE AREA IS THE STREET ADJACENT TO SHAH WALI AND ABDUL WALI'S

FORMER RESIDENCES. THE GERMAN CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER WAS RECENTLY FIRED UPON WITHOUT WARNING AT 1:30 A.M. WHILE DRIVING HOME ALONG WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN OPEN STREET. FORTUNATELY THE SHOT MISSED HIS CAR.

3. I DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM IN GRAPHIC DETAIL WITH GENERAL MUSTAGHNI, CHIEF OF STAFF, AFGHAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AT A PARTY IN HONOR OF VISITING LTGEN WILLIAMS ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND MADE POINTED REPRESENTATIONS TO DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH SEPTEMBER 16. IN BOTH CASES, I EMPHASIZED OUR DESIRE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES, BUT ASKED THAT WE BE INFORMED IF POSSIBLE WHAT AREAS WERE OFF LIMITS SO THAT WE COULD WARN OUR STAFF ACCORDINGLY. I ALSO STRESSED THE GREAT DANGER OF ACCIDENT IN THE MANNER IN WHICH PERSONS WERE BEING CHALLENGED AT THE POINT OF LOADED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND PRESSED FOR DIFFERENT INSTRUCTIONS TO BE GIVEN TO TROOPS ON DUTY. WE UNDERSTAND THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO PROTESTED VIGOROUSLY AFTER DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES WERE AGGRESSIVELY CHALLENGED UPON LEAVING A DINNER AT HIS HOME.

4. BOTH OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED TO ME THAT THERE IS INDEED A PROBLEM, BUT SAID THEY FELT THAT IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE SITUATION IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CHANGE THE CURRENT PRACTICE, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT. WAHID ABDULLAH, WHO HAD HIMSELF BEEN CONFRONTED BY A SIMILAR CHALLENGE THE PREVIOUS EVENING AND UNDERSTOOD FULLY OUR CONCERN, ASSURED ME HE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER PERSONALLY WITH PRESIDENT DAUD TO SEE IF SOME ORDER COULD BE ISSUED WITH MIGHT AT LEAST CHANGE THE MANNER OF CHALLENGE.

5. I HAD CONSIDERED PRESENTING A FORMAL WRITTEN PROTEST CONCERNING THESE INCIDENTS, BUT DECIDED AFTER MY DISCUSSION WITH THE DEPFONMIN TO LEAVE THE MATTER AS AN ORAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE TIME BEING, AS HE REQUESTED, PENDING HIS FURTHER RESPONSE. WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO BRIEF CAREFULLY ALL US PERSONNEL ON ADVISABLE BEHAVIOR TO BE FOLLOWED IN LIGHT OF THESE MEASURES, URGIN CALM AND CAUTION AT ALL TIMES AND COMPLETE RESPONSIVENESS TO CHALLENGES. WE FEAR THAT ALMOST INEVITABLY AN ACCIDENT WILL OCCUR SOMEWHERE IN THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY IF MARTIAL LAW CONDITIONS CONTINUE FOR LONG. HOWEVER, I AM DOUBTFUL THAT WE CAN DO MORE THAN EXERCISE MAXIMUM CAUTION, SO LONG AS THE UNDERLYING POLITICAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 06801 191152Z

MOTIVES FOR THE MARTIAL LAW REMAIN.  
LEWIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973KABUL06801  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS LEWIS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** KABUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730925/aaaaasam.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PERSONAL SECURITY OF AMERICAN STAFF  
**TAGS:** APER, AF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005